

Human Services And Community Facilities

Overview: *This section of Chapter 3 includes brief discussion of:*

- *Planned new library and community facilities; and*
- *Other new human services/community facilities serving the North Seattle area.*

SUMMARY OF POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

Policy 15 states, *“Provide quality human services for all segments of the population.”* The seven implementation guidelines discuss:

- interagency and interdepartmental coordination of human service planning and service delivery;
- distribution of fair share of human services and community facilities to the Northgate area;
- accessibility to human services;
- coordination of facilities and programs with the Seattle School District and North Seattle Community College;
- continued development of health care facilities and services;
- availability of housing for all segments of the population; and
- provision of community facilities such as a library, post office, community center, and day care within the Northgate core.

The human services and community facilities policy and guidelines are generally consistent with other City policies about service delivery and community facilities. They seek to improve upon existing conditions so that human services are accessible, delivered in a fair and efficient manner, and facilities providing amenities to the community are available.

ACTIONS TO DATE

Voter-approved levies provide public funding sources for some community facilities. In 1998, the voters approved funding for several new libraries and renovations to existing libraries. In 1999, the voters approved funding for several new community centers and renovations of existing community centers. Northgate is planned to receive a new library and a new community center over the next few years. Seattle Public Library is conducting a siting process for the new library in Northgate. DPR is trying to identify funding to move up the siting process for the new community center. These new projects will provide two of the facilities requested in this section of the Northgate Plan.

A limited review of City programs indicates that since 1993, new human service facilities and services available in the Northgate vicinity include: the Meadowbrook Family Support Center near Nathan Hale High School, opened in 1997. This center offers a wide range of parent and child support, and other services. Also, the New Beginnings programs expanded its services in 1997, adding a shelter at a confidential location to better serve women in North Seattle.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Citizen comments express interest in:

- seeing baseline data, such as inventories of services, evaluating human service provision and “fair share” concepts;
- understanding whether human service provision is tied to resident populations or employee populations; and
- more details about school facility use and availability.
- receiving guidance on locational decisions for the library and community center, open space and playfields, and design of a light rail station, so that these public investments can advance the type of transformation envisioned in the Northgate Plan.

DISCUSSION

Human Services

There is always room for improvement in the delivery of human services and provision of community facilities. Ideally, there would be sufficient funding to fully satisfy the wide range of residents’ needs. In reality, funding limitations restrict service providers from providing the full amount and type of services that are needed by the community. The City and other agencies must prioritize and distribute funds to serve a wide variety of needs.

The additional services provided over the past few years contribute toward achievement of the goals of increased accessibility and better availability of health care services, as discussed in two guidelines of the Northgate Plan.

The Northgate Plan seeks greater coordination of human services planning in the interest of better service delivery. The Neighborhood Development Manager (NDM) for the Northeast Sector is able to play a liaison and advocacy role for the community that may lead to improvements in coordination and delivery of human services in the Northgate area.

Community Facilities

The planned library and community center will provide new community facilities serving residential populations in the Northgate area, accommodating social, cultural and recreational opportunities. Consistent with the Northgate Plan’s recommendation, the siting efforts of the library and community center projects are directed toward locating these facilities within the core.

SPO RECOMMENDATIONS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agencies and City departments providing human service planning and delivery should do neighborhood outreach to businesses and local residents, including |
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consulting with the Neighborhood Development Manager for the Northeast Sector, to better understand neighborhood-specific needs and concerns.

- **Agencies and City departments siting capital facilities should do neighborhood outreach to businesses and local residents, including consulting with the Neighborhood Development Manager for the Northeast Sector, to better understand neighborhood-specific needs and concerns.**